

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for releasing a magnetic security device used to inhibit unauthorised access to and/or unauthorised removal of an article, the apparatus comprising: a first portion for locating an article in a first direction (D1) and a second portion for locating an article in a second direction (D2) substantially perpendicular to the first direction (D1), so the article is physically restrained in only the first and second directions (D1, D2) as it is brought into contact with the first and second portions; the first and/or second portions including magnetic release means arranged to assist in locating the article in a third direction (D3) substantially perpendicular to the first and second directions (D1, D2) by magnetic attraction of the security device as the article is brought into contact with the first and second portions so as to align the magnetic security device with the magnetic release means.
2. Apparatus for releasing a magnetic security device used to inhibit unauthorised access to and/or unauthorised removal of an article, the apparatus comprising: a first portion for locating an article in a first direction (D1) and a second portion for locating an article in a second direction (D2) substantially perpendicular to the first direction (D1), so as to provide an L-shaped slot or receptacle capable of receiving articles of a wide range of shapes and sizes having a security device installed adjacent two substantially perpendicular sides thereof, the first and/or second portions including magnetic release means.
3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2 in which the first portion defines a first plane and the second portion defines a second plane substantially perpendicular to the first plane.
4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 3 in which the first and second planes define a slot having a substantially L-shaped cross-section.

5. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim in which the first and second portions respectively comprise a base portion and a top portion upstanding therefrom.
6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 in which the first and second portions are connected together by means of at least one mutually engageable projection and recess.
7. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim in which the magnetic release means is arranged to provide a first magnetic force in a first direction D1 and a second magnetic force in a second direction D2.
8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 in which a first magnet mounted in the first portion provides the magnetic force in direction D1 and a second magnet mounted in the second portion provides the magnetic force in the second direction D2.
9. Apparatus as claimed in claim 8 in which the first and/or second magnet comprises a plurality of parts which are held together in a configuration in which they tend to repel each other.
10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9 in which the first and/or second magnets comprise a central part with a plurality of further parts adjacent thereto, the magnetic axes of each of the further parts being perpendicular to that of the central part.
11. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim having closure means moveable between an open position which provides access to the magnetic release means and a closed position which prevents an article being presented to the magnetic release means.
12. Apparatus as claimed in claim 11 in which the closure means comprises a slidable or pivotable cover.
13. Apparatus as claimed in claim 11 or 12 having locking means for locking the closure means in the closed position.

14. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or any claim dependent thereon in which the first and/or second portions are arranged to assist in locating the article in a third direction (D3) substantially perpendicular to the first and second directions (D1, D2) by magnetic attraction of the security device as the article is brought into contact with the first and second portions so as to align the magnetic security device with the magnetic release means.
15. A method of releasing a magnetic security device used to inhibit unauthorised access to and/or unauthorised removal of an article comprising the steps of providing apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim and presenting an article with a magnetic security device thereto to release the magnetic security device therefrom.